(b) and (c) State-wise number of bonded labourers identified and rehabilitated so far under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme are as under:

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
	Identified	Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	36,289	29,552
Bihar	13,092	12368
Karnataka	62,763	55,267
Madhya Pradesh	12,822	11,897
Orissa	49,971	46,843
Rajasthan	7,478	6,321
Tamil Nadu	65,573	65,573
Maharashtra	L393	1,309
Uttar Pradesh	27,797	27,797
Kerala	823	710
Haryana	544	21
Gujarat	64	64
Arunachal Pradesh	3,526	2,992

Raising of wage ceiling

4221. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOURbe pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the wage ceiling from Rs. 5000 to 6500 per month for coverage under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, Employees Pension Scheme and the Emplolyees Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme with effect from June 1 st, 2001; and

(b) if so, how many more employees are likely to be benefited under these three schemes by enlarging scope of coverage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Wage ceiling for

coverage has been raised from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month under the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 with effect from 1-6-2001. As the wage ceiling was raised with effect from 1-6-2001, it is too early to assess the number of employees likely to benefited.

Trade Unions objection against second generation economic reforms

4222. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state : (a) whether the Trade Unions are having objections against recently introduced second generation economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Government's reaction thereon;

(d) whether Government are aware of the action plan of the Trade Unions against implementation of these reforms; and

(e) if so, the preparations made to counter the actions of Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Trade Unions have from time to time observed strikes/bandhs and launched protests and demonstrations against the initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government to usher a Second Generation of economic reforms as well as implementation of the existing policy of disinvestment and privatisation. Some of the recent protests in this regard include Nation-wide two hour tool down strike on 16-4-2001, Maharashtra Bandh on 25-4-2001, Nation-wide strike by the Confederation of Central Government Employees and workers and All India State Government Employees Federation on 25-7-2001 and demonstration of the Joint Action Committee of nine Central Trade Unions and Federarion/Association of Delhi State on 24-7-2001. The rnment is of the view that the gains from economic reforms initiated in the ies need to be carried forward and reinforced through new policy es. The Government is also fully conscious of the need to protect the interest of the workers during the reform process. The steps taken by the Government recently to protect the interest of workers include raising of the wage ceiling unit under EPF and MP. Act, expansion of the ESI scheme in new areas, enhancement of the minimum amount of compensation payable under the Workmen Compensation Act, etc. A new scheme entitled "Ashraya Bima Yojana" has been announced for extending security cover to organised labour force affected by the on-going reforms. In addition to these measures, the Second